Mr. Joanidion Fielding

His True and Faithful

ACCOUNT

Of the Strange and Miraculous

COMET

Which was Seen by the

MUFTI

AT

CONSTANTINOPLE.

As appears by the *Daily Courant* of laſt Month.

By E. PARKER, *Philomath.*

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Greenwich, Dec. 10. 1716.

I JOANIDION FIELDING, Ranger of both Hemiſpheres, Surveyor of the Zodiack, Houſe-keeper of the Twelve Apartments of the *Primum Mobile*, Comptroller of the Sun and Moon, Inſpector of the Luminaries Errant, with their ſeveral Attendants, Purſuivant of the Blazing Stars, with their Train, Lord of the Parallax of the Pole-Star, Quarter-Maſter-General of the Heavenly Hoſt, and Retailer of their Influences to the Inhabitants of the Earth, hold myſelf in Duty and Conſcience bound, in Imitation of my Sovereign Miſtreſs the Moon, to borrow Light from Above, and diſpenſe it to Mortals Below.

For this Purpoſe is my Habitation ſeated on a Hill, as a Houſe of Viſion, elevated above the indented Protuberances of the viſible Horizon. Here, while the Dews of Night have bathed my Face, and the chaſte Moon kiſſed my Cheek on the Pillow, have I dwelt in this my Watch-Tower, as the Bird of *Pallas* in the Ivy-mantled Steeple. I therefore the ſaid *Joanidion Fielding*, after timely Warning given to all Pretenders not to invade my Ætherial Province, by preſuming to level any Tube, of what Length ſoever, at any Star, Planet, Conſtellation, or Celeſtial Phænomenon, am determined to relate all things I have ſeen, and all things that I have not ſeen; on both which Topicks of Obſervation, I will prognoſticate both what ſhall happen, and what ſhall not happen.

I have

I have ſeen New Cities, like Black Specks, ariſe in the Moon; but I never indeed beheld any of the Inhabitants thereof.

I did not ſee the famous total Eclipſe of the Sun in 1714, being 17 Minutes too late; but I beheld, with *Bajazet*, Two Suns combating for the Right Hand in the High-way of the *Ecliptick*.

I was not an Eye-Witneſs of thoſe Armies that contended in the Air before the Deſtruction of *Jeruſalem* by *Veſpaſian*; but I did ſee Mr. *Halley* (whom indeed I never had a good Opinion of) flying in a fiery Chariot over *Greenwich-Park*.

I did not ſee the Antartick Conſtellations, nor do I believe Mr. *Halley* did; but I did ſee, what I'm ſure he did not, the North Pole Star ſhift its Place by the Annual Motion of the Earth.

I did not ſee the late Coruſcations, which Mr. *Whiſton* rightly judges to be the Fire-works of Aerial Spirits, being intent upon burning my erroneous Catalogue of the Fixed Stars.

Neither did I, but a Friend of mine did ſee the Nine Comets at Mrs. *Wadlington*'s in *Soho-Square*, when he was going to celebrate a Geocentrick Conjunction.

I have not obſerv'd the New Buildings at *Greenwich* Hoſpital; but I beheld the New Star in the *Swan*.

I was not ſo happy as to ſee the Proceſſion of our Glorious Monarch from *Greenwich*; but I have ſeen the *Satellites* of *Saturn*.

I have not ſeen the Irruption of the Tide into *Dagenham* Breach; but I did ſee the Halo about the Moon before the great Storm.

I have not ſeen the Hinder-Parts of my dear Wife for ſeveral Years; but I have ſeen the Back-Parts of ſeveral Conſtellations, which no body ever ſaw but myſelf.

I did not know of the great Rebellion in this Land, of which I have ſince been told; but I did foreſee the Triple Alliance in the Stars.

As to the *Phænomenon*, which is the Subject of my preſent Paper, I can't properly ſay that I did ſee it, or that I did not ſee it, as you ſhall hear hereafter; but who did ſee it, and that in its full Glory, I now proceed to inform you.

Conſtantinople, anciently called *Byzantium*, was the Imperial Seat of *Conſtantine*, and all the other *Ottoman* Emperors, and has its preſent Situation correſpondent to the Place where it was firſt edifi'd.

The *Mufti* of this Metropolis, who is equal in Dignity to an Archbiſhop, has a pleaſant Seat on the Banks of the *Helleſpont*, not unlike unto *Lambeth*. Here, as he was penſively muſing, his Favourite Mute came unto him, and ſaid, Behold, thou High Prieſt of *Allah*, how the Light ſtreameth out of Darkneſs, and the Firmament blazeth as a Topaz! At this the High-Prieſt of *Mahomet* lifted his Eyes from the Ground, and lo! he beheld a paliſh Light, like the Creſcent of the Imperial Turbant; it ſoon ſhot itſelf forth into the Form of a Comet, whoſe Body appeared two Degrees Diameter; and its Tail in the Form of a Paraboloid, ſhot up within 20 Degrees of the Zenith; ſo that it appeared like the One-ey'd *Polyphemus*, in a Full-bottom'd Perriwig.

Tho' it ſeem'd to hang directly over *Sancta Sophia*; yet the End of the Tail grew redder and redder, and pointed towards the *Seraglio*.

Soon after it whirl'd itſelf round its *Axis* with rapid Motions and Variety of Figures to the Muſick of the Spheres, the Harmony of which, the Holy Man affirmed, ſoothed his Fears at this ſo dreadful an Appearance.

On the 42d Day, the extraordinary *Effluvia's* of Heat were ſuch, that the Ladies of the *Seraglio*, without any Provocation, fell upon the Eunuchs,

nuchs, 97 of whom they ſlew; and breaking from their Apartments, where they had been long kept for the Dalliance of the Emperor, fled to the *German* Camp, where they took Protection under Prince *Eugene* and his Officers.

This extraordinary Accident I attribute to the Comet, tho' ſome of our Politicians have thought it an Artifice of the *Mufti* to let looſe thoſe Beauties, in order to weaken the Uncircumciſed.

This dreadful Appearance (no doubt intended to warn the Unbelievers) was in a moſt Antichriſtian manner concealed nine Days by the *Turkiſh* Miniſtry; but it was not long e're *Temeſwaer* taught them what it is to deſpiſe the Signs of Heaven; and that the Tail of a Comet can at any time affect the Head of a Grand Vizier. Moreover, this illuſtrious Tail proved to be the Horſe-Tail of War hung forth in the Heavens, beyond all Contradiction; the *Turkiſh* Boys never uſing Lanterns to their Kites.

Upon this the Sultan aſſembled together his Southſayers and Wiſemen, who gave the following Opinions.

Muley Hamet ſaid, that it portended the Converſion of the *Free-thinkers* of *Great-Britain*; and that the Sultan would receive the Foreskins of T——d and C————s in a Box of Gold.

Iſhmael Bachir affirmed that it warned the mighty Emperor of the *Eaſt* of a fiery Tail in the *Seraglio*. But this Prognoſtication coſt him dear; for he was immediately ſtrangled, and thrown into the *Boſphorus*.

Upon which *Sannadrim* was of Opinion, that it only denoted the Arrival of a *Britiſh* Ambaſſadreſs of marvellous Beauty, with a long Train of Attendants. And the Emperor reſted ſatisfied with this Prognoſtick.

But tho' the Effects of this portentous *Phænomenon* ſhall prove moſt fatal to the Infidels; let not! ah, let not the poor deluded Chriſtians flatter themſelves that they are out of Danger! Ah, heedleſs Brethren! think not that this baleful Dog-Star, of ſo prodigious Magnitude, only ſhaketh its Tail at you in Waggery; no, it ſhaketh it as a Rod. It is not a Sporting Tail, but a Fiery Tail; yea, ſuch a Tale as may reach and be told to all Poſterity.

Proceed we now, according to our firſt Propoſal, from what we have ſeen, and what we have not ſeen, to foretell what will be, and what will not be.

Mr. *Whiſton*'s Scheme of Primitive Chriſtianity ſhall not prevail this Year; ſo that it will be more for his Profit to meddle only with the Inſpiration of the Air-Pump at *White-Hall*.

Neither *Aſgil* nor *Lucan* ſhall be tranſlated this Year.

Mr. *Curll* ſhall be Vomited the Second Time, Toſt in a Blanket the Third, and Cudgel'd the Ninth Time, for Printing the Will of Sir *J*—— *Baker*, by the Executors of the ſaid Sir *J*———.

Mr. *Moor* ſhall die of a Doſe of the ſame Powder by which he liv'd.

G—d preſerve Sir *Ja*— *Aſt*——*y*.

No Biſhop ſhall appear at *H*——'s Maſquerade, except one.

One *Cork* ſhall not ſtop *all* Bottles.

Many Backſides ſhall be borrowed without leave of the Owner.

There will be a ſtrong Conjunction of *Venus* and *Mercury* this Year, which will produce great Moiſture.

If the Pope be not Eat up by Pun-aiſes, for Anathema's that he never denounc'd, he ſhall at leaſt be Tickled to Death, or receive a Phillip from St. *Ambroſe*.

No Woman in *South-Britain* will put any Man to Death this Year for making Love to her; nor any Widow of Note die of Grief for the Loſs of her Husband.

If the Bed-Curtains and Squabs about the Weſtern End of the Town chance to ſpeak, many Ladies will be put to the Bluſh.

Happy the Man who Punts upon a Knave during the Month of *January*, or ſets on 6 upon *Twelfth Night*.

Wine not ſtrong enough this Year to make Men ſpeak Truth.

Many Dogs that have wagg'd their Tails, ſhall begin to ſnarl; and ſome that have ſnarl'd, ſhall learn to wagg their Tails.

Sir *J. Baker* ſhall be found to be a Spy of the King of *Spain*, but ſhall make great Diſcoveries, on the Promiſe of a Reward of 15 *s.*

A Knight-errant ſhall be loſt in *Mardyke* Canal, and a poiſonous Bolus ſhall ſtay for an engroſs'd Parchment to wrap it in.

Many ſhall be reduc'd from riding in Crane-neck'd Chariots, to trade with the *Japanneſe*.

When the Land is over-run with Spaniels and Mules, let the Wiſe-man retire into his Cloſet.

He that frequenteth *He*——'s Maſquerade, ſhall not piſs the eaſier.

Many that are cloathed in Bear-Skins, ſhall ſuffer Cold this Winter.

No Money return'd by Courtiers this Year.

No Man ſhall ſtarve this Year for being aſhamed to ask.

No Man ſhall be Indited this Year for Raviſhing a Player.

Thrice ſhall *Heideker* beſhit himſelf, without changing his Countenance or Linen.

A young Lady ſhall be bleſt with a Baſtard, who ſhall be the Terror of the whole *Ottoman* Empire.

An inviſible Man ſhall come out of *Berlin*, to the Un-tuning of the *Welſh* Harp, and the New-ſtringing of the *Iriſh* one.

A Blue Velvet Birth-day Coat ſhall long hang expos'd in *Monmouth-ſtreet*, for want of a Buyer of the ſame Stature.

An eminent Lawyer ſhall grow Cruſty, for not being made Maſter-Baker.

Beauties of the beſt Complexion ſhall this Year be ground by Two Stones.

The Ghoſt of Maiſter *William Shakeſpear* ſhall appear, and grieveouſly afflict Mr. *C*——*y C*—*r* on the 2d of *January*, and the Ghoſt of *Racine* ſhall haunt ſome other Gentlemen.

Mr. *J. D*—*ton*, and other obſcure Authors, ſhall be interpreted by a great Critick in Ermin, and afterwards highly advanc'd upon Wooden Shelves.

The *Oxford* Almanack ſhall be explain'd *de TRAVERS*.

The Author of the *Flying-Poſt* ſhall be diſcover'd to be a moſt malicious Jeſuit in Diſguiſe.

A Great Lady, after a ſtrong Convulſion, ſhall recover her Eye-ſight; but not the Freedom of her Tongue, nor the Uſe of her Limbs.

There ſhall come a freſh thing out of the Country, which ſhall be in three Bellies in four and twenty Hours.

F I N I S.